

TRIBUTE TO "EL CONGRESO DE
LIDERES DE PUERTO RICO"

HON. LUIS G. FORTUÑO

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. FORTUÑO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young leaders, "El Congreso de Lideres de Puerto Rico," whose work should serve as an example to us all. Throughout their years of hard work and dedication this group of students has forged an exemplary path towards the future. We all know the importance of strong leadership and the benefit it can bestow our society, and as we move towards the future, it is reassuring to know that admirable leadership is alive and well in the lives of our younger citizens. It is of great importance to recognize the work of those young leaders who continuously demonstrate their worth to the community by helping others achieve their potential, as they strive to fulfill their dreams, and enrich our society.

In 2006, the Puerto Rico State Legislature recognized their outstanding service and contributions as part of the "Week of Business and Professionals." In 2006, "El Congreso de Lideres de Puerto Rico" expanded their efforts globally and across our Nation by helping to establish a sister organization, "The Congress of Leaders of Florida." The Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce has awarded this group with the Zenit Award, declaring them the Best Education and Leadership program of Service to the Community.

I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in recognizing this group of young leaders and encouraging them to continue their work for a better tomorrow. May we all learn from their example, hard work and dedication to our future.

A TRIBUTE TO LOUIS J. PAPAN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to share with my colleagues in the House news of the death of a California public servant from my home district. Lou Papan, known as the "Dean" of the California State Assembly, died unexpectedly on Saturday, April 28, 2007. He was 78 years old.

Lou Papan was practically a force of nature in state and local politics. His distinguished life's work included service to his country as a member of the Armed Forces, his professional career with the FBI, a successful banking and business experience and ultimately, serving two decades as a State Assemblyman from California's 19th District.

Madam Speaker, this big, burly bear of a man was also known for his enormous heart and his devotion to his family. The father of a seriously disabled son, Lou Papan was well known along Highway 80 as he commuted between Sacramento and Millbrae, making a point of being home every night to help his wife Irene with the added complexities of life parents of seriously ill children often face. John died in 1981 at the age of 21 and it is

doubtful that Lou Papan ever regretted a single highly publicized speeding ticket he received. Those tickets earned him the nickname "Leadfoot Lou."

This personal dedication translated into public and private activities geared to helping other families facing similar challenges. The creation of "John's Closet," a unique organization that collected clothing for disabled and poor children, was but one example of how Lou Papan shouldered his community's concerns in order to help make everyone's life just a little better.

Madam Speaker, Lou Papan was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, as Elias Papandricopolos. His parents were Greek immigrants and his own name was accidentally changed to "Louis" by a doctor who did not recognize the original name on a form. Lou Papan spoke only Greek when he began elementary school.

As a young man, Lou Papan served in the U.S. Army. Family lore has it that fellow soldiers kidded the young man about the length of his last name, saying that the 16 letters nearly wrapped all the way around his helmet. He later earned a degree in economics from Syracuse University and during the Korean War, was an officer in the Air Force. He then went to Georgetown Law School. His government service continued with the FBI, which sent him to San Francisco where he met his wife and where he settled.

Madam Speaker, Lou Papan left the FBI to embark on a business career that was highly successful in banking, insurance and real estate. He was a co-founder of the Peninsula Bank of Commerce. His first elected office was as a member of the Daly City Council. In 1972, he took the leap to the California State Assembly.

Lou Papan's political career is full of dynamic successes as well as controversial emotions. His legacy is one of "hardball politics" in which legislators were strongly encouraged to support the political policies of their party. Known as "The Enforcer" for his ability to shepherd votes, Lou Papan's shadow was cast large in Sacramento, over both opponents and supporters.

His political goal to become a State Senator was never realized, although he tried on two occasions. Madam Speaker, this gregarious, sometimes garrulous politician left the State Assembly in 1986 to run for State Senate. He failed in that effort, but in 1996, he easily recaptured his former Assembly seat. As a footnote to his legislative legacy, Lou Papan became one of the longest-serving politicians in recent California history, having served time both before and after voters approved term limits. As the Chairman of the powerful Assembly Rules Committee, Lou Papan wielded considerable power over the day-to-day activities of the California Legislature. His position and political style often resulted in decidedly mixed reviews, but almost everyone agreed that he was an effective leader.

It was during his Assembly tenure that the California Capitol Building was renovated and upgraded through a six-year, \$67 million effort. A plaque bearing his name testifies to his successful oversight of that project.

Madam Speaker, it is difficult to capture a life of public service in these few short words, but let me say that during his 20-year career in the California Assembly, Lou Papan championed the causes of children, including legis-

lation to improve public instruction for disabled students, require reporting of child and elder abuse and establishment of childcare centers for families with business before the courts. He also authored legislation to help firefighters suffering from life-threatening illnesses as a result of exposure to toxic chemicals on the job. Lou Papan played a key role in establishing and expanding California's public transportation agencies, carried legislation to ensure reliability of regional water delivery systems, and submitted bills aimed at encouraging conservation and recycling, among many other contributions. Lou Papan also served as the Chairman of the Banking and Finance Committee, where he spearheaded efforts to support independent banking institutions.

In 1996 he was granted the Ellis Island Medal of Honor given by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations to ethnic Americans who have made significant contributions to this country.

In another effort to recognize his public service, the California Legislature renamed a section of Highway 1, from the Daly City border south through the City of Pacifica along the scenic coast, as the "Louis J. Papan Highway." He is given credit for successfully securing funding to purchase beachfront property in Pacifica for the State Parks system.

Madam Speaker, Lou Papan lived a big, at times boisterous life. His dedication to public service speaks for itself and his impact on the people and politics of California are now part of history. He is survived by his daughters Virginia "Gina" Papan and Diane Papan, son-in-law Dan Latini and granddaughter Alexa Papan Latini.

His daughter Gina says her dad "was the real deal." Madam Speaker, I agree wholeheartedly with that assessment. Lou Papan was a unique and dynamic personality who made his mark on his home, his county, his state and his country. I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the contributions of this fellow politician and servant of the public.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PAUL
WORKMAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Paul Workman who was named the Small Business Administration's Financial Services Champion of the Year for the State of Nevada.

Paul, who serves as Executive Vice President and Director of Sales for Business Bank Nevada, has worked in the banking industry for more than 30 years. Paul's experiential understanding of the banking world has led him to become an integral component of the Business Bank of Nevada leadership team. Business Bank of Nevada, considered one of the best performing independent banks in Nevada and throughout the country, operates through 7 branch offices in the state, Loan Production Offices in Arizona, and is in its 12th year of operation.

In addition to his professional work, Paul has remained active in civic endeavors for the